

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, replacement FIG. 11 has been substituted for previous FIG. 11, and new claims 24-27 have been added. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-27 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action of March 30, 2004, the Examiner is respectfully thanked for indicating that claims 7-10 and 17-20 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner objected to FIG. 11 and indicted that this figure should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--. Responsive to this objection, the Applicant hereby submits substitute FIG. 11, which includes the designation --Prior Art--. If any additional amendment to the drawings is required to overcome this objection, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9, 11-16, and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,274,476 to Lee. To the extent that this rejection remains applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicant hereby traverses the rejection, as follows.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that, in FIGs. 5-7b, Lee discloses all of the elements claimed in claims 1-6, 9, 11-16, and 21-23 of the present invention. In particular, the Examiner states that Lee includes "transfer electrodes (PG1a and PG1b)

having an overlap structure that end portions of adjacent transfer electrodes (PG1a and PG1b) overlap to define a plurality of border lines of the channel region (VCCD), and defining a plurality of charge transfer sections”, and “each transfer channel region (VCCD) includes a region where a plurality of charge transfer sections are juxtaposed along a direction perpendicular to the extension direction.”

The Applicant respectfully traverses these characterizations of Lee and submits that Lee shows in FIG. 6, for example, ends of transfer electrodes PG1a, PG1b formed *one atop the other*, rather than having an overlap structure that end portions of adjacent transfer electrodes overlap to define a plurality of border lines and defining a plurality of charge transfer sections. This structure shown in FIG. 6, or as generally described at col. 7, Ins. 3-37, as cited by the Examiner, further does not show each transfer channel region as including a region where a plurality of charge transfer sections are juxtaposed along a direction perpendicular to the extension direction, rather than merely being laid one atop the other.

The Applicant submits that, at least for these reasons, Lee does not disclose or suggest at least the combination of limitations of “transfer electrodes having an overlap structure that end portions of adjacent transfer electrodes overlap to define a plurality of border lines of said channel region, and defining a plurality of charge transfer sections partitioned by the border lines in said channel region, wherein each transfer channel region includes a region where a plurality of charge transfer sections are juxtaposed along a direction perpendicular to the extension direction”, as claimed in claim 1.

The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over the cited art. As claim 1 is allowable, the Applicant submits that claims 2-10, and newly added claim 27, each of which depend from allowable claim 1, are likewise allowable.

Similarly, the Applicant submits that claim 11 is allowable at least because Lee does not disclose or suggest at least the combination of “transfer electrodes having an overlap structure that end portions of adjacent transfer electrodes overlap to define a plurality of border lines of said transfer channel region, and defining a plurality of charge transfer sections partitioned by the border lines in said channel-regions, wherein each transfer channel region includes a region where a plurality of charge transfer sections are juxtaposed along a direction perpendicular to the extension direction”, as claimed in claim 11.

The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 11 is allowable over the cited art. As claim 11 is allowable, the Applicant submits that claims 12-21, which depend from allowable claim 11, are likewise allowable.

Also, similarly to claims 1 and 11, the Applicant submits that claim 22 is allowable at least because Lee does not disclose or suggest a method of driving a solid state image pickup device, the device having at least the combination of “transfer electrodes having an overlap structure that end portions of adjacent transfer electrodes overlap to define a plurality of border lines of the transfer channel region, and defining a plurality of charge transfer sections partitioned by the border lines in the channel regions, wherein each transfer channel region includes a region where a plurality of charge transfer sections are juxtaposed along a direction perpendicular to the extension direction”, as claimed in claim 22.

The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 22 is allowable over the cited art. As claim 22 is allowable, the Applicant submits that claim 23, which depends from allowable claim 22, is likewise allowable.

For similar reasons, the Applicant further submits that newly added claims 24-26 are allowable over the cited art.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.0

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300, referencing attorney docket number 107317-00016.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox, PLLC



Wilburn L. Chesser
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 41,668

Customer No. 004372

1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Telephone No. (202) 715-8434
Facsimile No. (202) 638-4810

WC/wb/lhr

TECH/254659.1